

Step Into My World!

-a photo essay from Suriname, South America

Update on Steven Dickens, NICS missionary to:
Paramaribo, Suriname, South America



L to R: Alex (Mexico), Jenny (Trinidad), Ryan (Suriname),
Rebecca (USA), Kanako (Japan), Michael (Suriname)

***THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, SLAVE NOR FREE, MALE NOR
FEMALE, FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. -GALATIANS 3:28***

Greetings! It is now June, and I will return home for summer vacation soon! I fly back to the United States on June 14. Please pray for safe travel as I make this long trip!

The bulk of this newsletter will be a photo essay. In it you will see pictures of my world – of the sights I see every day. May was a good month for me. God has been doing wonderful things in my life, and I feel truly blessed to be a part of the ministry that is happening here in Suriname. Here are some of the major events of May:

Residency Interview

In order to avoid having to buy an entrance visa next year to come back to Suriname the school is pursuing residency status for the entire teaching staff. In addition to providing college diplomas and transcripts, we all had to be interviewed in person. Please pray that we are granted residency status. Should we get it, we will no longer have to renew our green cards every three months nor purchase visas to enter Suriname.

Student Writing

In English class I had my students write a poem describing the places where they grew up. Several students allowed me to publish their writing on my website. Their poems reflect the diversity of our student body, and provide some neat insights as to the kind of students we have in school. Check out their writing in the student section of my website:

<http://sdickens.tripod.com>

Teacher Appreciation Banquet

Being as it is the end of the year, the school board hosted a teacher/staff appreciation banquet at a local hotel. After singing several praise songs together, the school board showed a thank-you presentation titled "Sowing the Seed, Reaping the Harvest." The presentation had many pictures and kind quotes from students at our school. Furthermore, we were all given a copy of the presentation to take home and show our families! I truly felt appreciated; the banquet was one of the most touching I have ever attended.

Youth Group End of Year Fling

To celebrate the end of the year we had an all-night lock-in for the youth group last Friday. Half of our lock-in took place at school, with the rest taking place at two missionary homes and the local bowling alley. At school we played several games, put on some silly skits, and watched The Fellowship of the Ring. The students had a wonderful time, while I felt very tired from staying up all night!

Call for Support

It is now time for me to begin gaining support for next year. My major supporter, Christ Lutheran Church, has recently informed me that due to enormous building expenses, they are no longer able to support me as a missionary. As a result, I now need to raise support entirely from friends and family. Please prayerfully consider whether you (or someone you

know) is willing to help fund my ministry in Suriname. I need to raise between \$2,000 and \$3,000. If I raise \$3,000, I will come home for Christmas! 92% of your money goes to me, with the last 8% going to NICS as a processing fee. By mission organization standards, this amount is small. Your donation is tax-deductible if sent to NICS. If sent to me directly, it is not. You may call Charlene Chapman at the NICS home office with any questions (or call me!). NICS: 1-800-887-NICS. Those who support me are recognized on my website in the "special thanks" section!

Thank you to the following supporters for your generous support and help this past year!

Christ Lutheran Church

Mr. John F. Dickens
Ms. Katrina M. Dickens
Ms. Margaret Dickens
Toby & Mary Dickens
Linda & Rolf Larson,
Ms. Stina Larson
Dr. Maud C. Hall
Kim Oleson
Bonnie Bucholz
Kathy Novak
Paul Martin
Marty Osredker
Ty Johnson
Thomas G. Hamilton
Stan & Rev. Glenda Fish
Kirsten Arveson
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Spiegel
Michel Plungjan
Robert Pionke



the 8th grade class



the 7th grade class

In Christ,

Steven Dickens



the 6th grade class

The American Cooperative School



the front of the school



school drop-off zone



back of the school

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

-Galatians 6:10



side view of new building

On the way to school!



this is where I live! all houses have a gate in front like mine



Statues outside of the Indonesian Embassy.
(these were probably ballasts at one point)



This is a temple that I pass by. I think it is being reconstructed into a mosque. I haven't noticed any progress on it though. It's right next to the Indonesian Embassy.



Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil ; cling to what is good. -Romans 12:9

Around Paramaribo



*Serve one
another in
love.*

*Galatians
4:13*

Statement of Support

I am teaching 6th-10th grade English at the American Cooperative School in Paramaribo, Suriname. The school serves students from: Japan, India, Indonesia, Trinidad, China, Suriname, USA, Canada, Mexico, and other countries. As I teach, I demonstrate and share my faith by words, actions, and the policies I set in my classroom. I also assist with the middle/high school youth group and I co-lead a men's Bible study for middle/high school students. This unique experience has allowed me to reach kids and model for them what Christian life is all about. I maintain a web site where students can ask spiritual questions or submit prayer requests, as well as see their own work published. I am honored by this opportunity to share Christ and I hope that you will join me in this important work!

Should it be financially possible for you to support my unique ministry in Suriname, please fill out the form below. I appreciate any support you are able to give- even \$20 goes a long way! If you have questions of any kind, you are more than welcome to contact my sending agency, the Network of International Christian Schools.

If you want your donation to be tax-deductible, send your support to NICS, otherwise, send it directly to me at my home address. Current supporters: check out the special thanks section of my website! <http://sdickens.tripod.com>

Support Form: Fill out and Return to NICS

Form for a New Monthly Supporter and/or One-Time Gift

I wish to support the ministry of Steven Dickens at the American Cooperative School

_____ MONTHLY SUPPORT _____ ONE-TIME GIFT _____ PRAYER SUPPORT

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____ Questions: Call NICS 1-800-887-NICS

Email address: _____ Want my monthly newsletter? __ Y __ N

Send checks payable to NICS and put "project #01450" in the memo field of the check. For tax purposes, do not put my name on the check. Project #01450 designates me as the recipient. A tax-deductible receipt will be mailed to you within two weeks. Mail to:

NICS Financial Department • PO Box 1260 • Southaven, MS • 38671

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. . ." –Matthew 28:19